DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Bernardino County Vector Control Program

Division of Environmental Health Services:

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Winterize Your Home from Vector Infestations

It is important for the health of your family and pets to maintain a vector-free living environment. A vector is any animal that is capable of transmitting infection to humans. Mosquitoes, rodents, fleas and ticks are examples of vectors. If infected, these vectors can transmit West Nile virus, plaque, Hantavirus or Lyme disease to humans and other animals. During winter, vectors climb, claw and gnaw to find an entry way into your home, causing structural damage to roofs, siding, and basements. Often, signs of vector infestations go unnoticed until it's too late. Below are some simple tips for preventing vector infestations in your home.

Outdoor Rodent Control and Maintenance Tips:

- Keep your yard clean
- Keep branches and bushes trimmed and back away from the house
- Check for leaking outdoor faucets and pipes
- Don't leave pets water or food bowls outside
- Always keep doors closed rodents are quick!
- Store firewood away from the home
- Keep your garbage bins tightly sealed and empty them regularly

Indoor Rodent Control and Maintenance Tips:

- Seal all entryways, cracks, holes in siding, doors, window screens, and areas around pipes.
- Practice good sanitation by cleaning up crumbs and spills
- Never leave out glasses of water or pets food/water bowls at night
- Store dry food in sealed containers
- Clean under counter-top appliances and large kitchen appliances

The Mosquito and Vector Control program provides routine mosquito control surveillance, community education, and responds to service requests/complaints relating to vectorcontrol issues within 24 to 48 hours.

For more information, contact the County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services, Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.